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DCI BRIEFING

22 May 1961

SOVIET INTERNAL

- I. Soviet bureaucracy undergoing most thorough housecleaning since Khrushchev took over.
  - A. Removals--including several cases of expulsion from the party--prompted mainly by poor agricultural results last year.
  - B. Corruption and fraud against the state apparently much more widespread than realized heretofore.
- II. Other factors involved, however, including political jousting by Khrushchev's lieutenants in preparation for 22nd Party Congress in October which will elect new Central Committee.
  - A. At least half of Central Committee elected in 1956 expected to be dropped in October, an illustration of extent of the current cleanup.
- III. Party Congress--essentially an extravaganza dedicated to Khrushchev's leadership--will also approve new Party Program--an outline of long-range Soviet goals and strategy.
- IV. Only other leader slated to play a major role at Party Congress is Frol Kozlov--apparently Khrushchev's choice as his successor.
  - A. However, Kozlov now convalescing from April heart attack.
  - B. May be on the sidelines for extended period; this could necessitate redistribution of his key administrative responsibilities in party organizational and personnel work.

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- V. In any case, Kozlov's chances of succeeding Khrushchev may now be reduced.
  - A. As a result, likely that below-the-surface maneuvering for the succession now intensified.
- VI. Some clarification of Khrushchev's personnel problems may come earlier than the Party Congress in October.
  - A. Yugoslav Ambassador in Moscow claims that Central Committee will meet next month.
  - B. Ambassador Thompson speculates that this a logical time for more top personnel changes to be announced.

7-2

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